

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 01270 150900Z
ACTION EA-12

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SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9327
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CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SOPN KS US
SUBJ: KOREAN MEDIA ON US-RELATED TOPICS, FEBRUARY 15

REF: SEOUL 1218 (DTG 140746Z FEB 78)

1. COVERAGE CONTINUES OF EVANS AND NOVAK COLUMN ON JAWORSKI. TYPICAL HEADLINE: "JAWORSKI BID SHAKES CONFIDENCE OF US ALLIES". PROMINENCE GIVEN TO CLAIM THAT US RISKS ALIENATING FRIENDLY NATIONS, ESP. IN MIDEAST, THOUGH JAWORSKI'S INSISTENCE ON DISREGARDING US OBLIGATIONS UNDER VIENNA CONVENTION. JAWORSKI IS PICTURED AS TRYING TO OCERCE FROM AN INCREASINGLY RELUCTANT CONGRESS, COMPLIANCE WITH HIS RISKY DEMANDS FOR TESTIMONY BY FORMER ROK AMBASSADORS.

2. IN THE ONLY OTHER KOREAGATE ITEM, MASS-CIRCULATION HANGUK ILBO'S DC CORRESPONDENT PORTRAYS A GAME OF WITS BETWEEN JAWORSKI AND STATE OVER PTS' CONGRES-
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PAGE 02 SEOUL 01270 150900Z

SIONAL TESTIMONY: "JAWORSKI MAY BELIEVE THAT THE ONLY WAY TO WIN OVER STATE'S POSITION NOT TO LET PTS STAND BEFORE CONGRESS IS TO BRING HIM TO THE CONGRESS ...HOWEVER, WE CAN HARDLY PREDICT THE FUTURE COURSE OF PTS' US ACTIVITIES AT THIS JUNCTURE."

3. MAJOR AFTERNOON STORY IS JOINT DOD/MND ANNOUNCE-

MENT OF TEAM SPIRIT 78, "LARGEST US-ROK JOINT MANEUVER EVER HELD". CHUNGANG ILBO HEADLINES, "7TH FLEET AND NUCLEAR MISSILES TO PARTICIPATE", QUALIFYING IN TEST THAT SOME FLEET UNITS WILL TAKE PART, AS WILL ONE BATTERY FROM FT. SILL EQUIPPED WITH NUCLEAR-CAPABLE (NOT NUCLEAR) LANCE MISSILE. ALL PAPERS GIVE EXTENSIVE AND ENTHUSIASTIC COVERAGE, LISTING TROOP STRENGTHS (30,300 US, 62,500 ROK), UNITS (INCLUDING ACFT. CARRIER) TO BE COMMITTED, OTHER DETAILS. WHILE MASS PRESS SAVORS DESCRIPTIONS OF MILITARY STRENGTH, CHUNGANG ILBO AND TONG A ILBO CONSIDER POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE. CHUNGANG REGARDS USE OF LANCE MISSILE AS "RECONFIRMING SCHLESINGER'S 1975 STATEMENT THAT US MAY USE NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN ANY NEW KOREAN WAR". TONG A NOTES THAT EXERCISE "SHOWS US DETERMINATION TO DEFEND KOREA, SERVING NOTICE BOTH TO NORTH KOREA AND TO AMERICA'S ASIAN ALLIES, PARTICULARLY JAPAN, THAT THE US COMMITMENT TO ASIAN SECURITY IS FIRM".

4. CHUNGANG ILBO GAVE PROMINENT COVERAGE TO ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN'S NY SPEECH URGING "CAUTIOUS DEVELOPMENT OF US HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY", WITH PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO RECTIFYING FIVE MAJOR FLAWS IN POLICY AS PRESENTLY APPLIED.
STERN

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